

**College of DuPage Retirees Association
and
College of DuPage Annuitants Association**

This publication is presented by the Board of Directors
May, 2015

President	Sherwood Edwards
Vice President	Prudy Widlak
Treasurer	Joe Rorke
Secretary	Meri Phillips
Immediate Past President	Steve Mansfield
At-Large Director	Russell Watson
Membership Committee	Jackie Reuland/Brenda Marcy
Social Committee	Kim Pack

Compiled by Sherwood Edwards, CDAA President, 1/24/2015
with information provided by
Jenny Dunbar, C.O.D. Archivist,
Alan Bergeson, Kay Braulik, Ernie & Carolyn Gibson, Ken Harris,
Ken Kolbet, Barb Lemme, Hal McAninch and Irma Pittroff
Edited by Meri Phillips, Secretary

HISTORY

In 1986, a college retiree, Carolan Rosenkranz, wrote a letter to fellow retirees asking those interested in a retirees club to respond to her. Twenty-nine replied and the **College of DuPage Retirees Association (CDRA)** was born. *Thanks to the efforts of many.*

Some of the founders that helped to get this organization started were: Robert (Bob) Thomas, James E. Love, Robert (Bob) Harvey, Andrew L. Leake, Ruth Nechoda, William Gooch, and William Bell.

Connection with the College

Then C.O.D. President, Dr. Harold (Hal) McAninch, presented this association as an agenda item to the Board of Trustees, in May 1987, and our organization became a recognized integral part of the college. The original Constitution of CDRA was adopted on June 20, 1987. On June 30, 1989 the CD Retirees Association re-organized to better facilitate communications between retirees and the college, assuming all retirees as members.

Connection with SUAA

An important change began to take shape in 1991. With the assistance of Hal McAninch and Ted Tilton, who are now retirees themselves, discussions began about joining the State University Annuitants Association (SUAA), founded in 1971. On March 12, 1992, the College of DuPage Retirees Association became a chartered member as a chapter of SUAA, representing all of our retirees, both dues-paying and non-dues/non-voting members. CDAA became one of the 12 college chapters of SUAA, along with 11 university chapters. Robert (Bob) Harvey was active as a liaison to the State University Annuitants Association even though he was not an officer at any point.

Merging – Social and Advocacy

In September 1992, CDRA President Paul Fina, met with Dr. McAninch to discuss the subject of merging the CDRA with the College of DuPage Annuitants Association (CDAA). The last unmerged meeting of the two organizations was held May 5, 1993; the effective date of the merger was July 1, 1993. Even though there was a “merger,” dues were separate and sent to the respective treasurers. SUAA became our advocacy group with the State legislature and administration.

SUAA has been very influential in obtaining improvements in our State University Retirement System (SURS) pensions, including support for the passage of PA 88-0593 (SB 533) in 1994, which put SURS funding on a continuing appropriation basis to correct serious underfunding. Another major commitment by SUAA is to resolve inequities in college retiree’s health insurance costs among colleges and retirees, especially those retirees who do not qualify for Medicare primary coverage.

CDAA is Created

On May 4, 1995 an association constitution was adopted that fully integrated the two organizations (retirees club and the College of DuPage Retirees Association) into the **College DuPage Annuitants Association (CDAA)**. *All C.O.D. retirees who are not dues-paying members are entitled to appropriate services and communications, but may not vote or hold elective office.*

CDAA is represented at State Board meetings in June and October annually. State and Chapter newsletters were published, and calls made to request members to contact their legislators to advance relevant legislation.

CDAA Participation in SUAA

In the early 2000, a number of CDAA officers began to serve on SUAA statewide committees, and a few CDAA retirees held top level statewide office in SUAA. In the 2010s CDAA has had to transform from primarily social service organization mode to "activist/war machine" mode in order to address the Illinois legislative actions against state pensioners.

For over 40 years, the State of Illinois General Assembly has chosen not to fully fund SURS and the other state pension systems (except for the Judges State Pension System.) Thus, the General Assembly's failure to fund these pension obligations created a financial crisis. By 2015 the unfunded obligation has grown to \$110 billion. For instance, PA 98-0599 (SB-1)(2014), is intended to reduce most state pensioner's retirement benefits, and thus necessitated the involvement of the association to actively raise funds to wage the legal battle that has ensued.

Throughout the history of CDAA, members have supported the mission of our association and SUAA by making financial contributions to SUAA-Action and the SUAA Legal fund. Our members have also been actively engaged in advocating our mission by visiting with our local General Assembly elected officials. Additionally, CDAA members have served on numerous SUAA committees, as well as elected officers to the SUAA Executive Committee, in our efforts to preserve our earned retirement benefits.

SUAA is currently working to revise its governing documents into bylaws. The CDAA will undoubtedly be working to update our documents also.

CDAA in the 21st Century -

The early growth spurt in membership occurred between 2000 and 2004, growing from 55 to 200 members; thanks to the efforts of the Board (Gibson, Lemme, Kapper, Mansfield). Membership continued to grow steadily from then. Member dues for July 1 to June 30 began at \$20.00 (\$15.00 for the State organization and \$5.00 for the Chapter). In 2013, changes at SUAA (or with the IRS reporting) mandated the fiscal year to be the calendar year. SUAA raised its dues in 2015 from \$30 to \$33; CDAA chapter dues remain at \$5 per year. The Membership Committee encourages members to have their dues deducted from their monthly pension payments.

In 2015, the College of DuPage chapter of SUAA (CDAA), amongst now 46 chapters, maintains a membership of over 450 members; SUAA statewide is 16,000. CDAA is afforded three State Board of Directors seats/votes at the Annual and Regional meetings of SUAA. There is an active social calendar, and communications occurs in the virtual world through email and social media (Facebook and Google groups). About 125 members receive annual communication through the US mail.

Since its inception, **the purpose of this group** has been stated in the CDAA Constitution (last amended May 4, 2006):

1. Promoting awareness of retirement benefits for annuitants present and future;
2. Providing education and social programs;
3. Improving communications between the College and its retirees;
4. Facilitating retiree awareness of opportunities to serve the college on campus and in communities of District 502.

The composition of the CDAA Board of Directors

(Article IV, CDAA Constitution, 2006)

1. The Board of the CDAA shall be the President, Vice president, Secretary, and Treasurer. Two Officers of the Board shall be elected for terms of two years at the Annual Meeting. The President and Vice President will be elected in even years, while the Secretary and Treasurer will be elected odd years. The Immediate Past President is considered a member of the Board and serves until the next president is elected.
2. An officer shall not serve more than two consecutive two-year terms in any one office. The duties of the officers shall be those outlined in the By-laws. Officer's vacancies may be filled by the Board.
3. The Board shall determine member dues.
4. Standing committees are Political Involvement, Membership, Communications /Newsletter, Nominating and Social. Chairpersons shall be appointed by the president and are to attend Board Meetings. The President may appoint ad hoc committees as necessary.

The CDAA Board of Directors meets at least quarterly, with notices and minutes provided to all members. An annual meeting is held the first Friday in May of each year.

Membership in CDAA is open to retirees and to current employees 55 and over (all of whom participate in and benefit from, or ultimately will benefit from, the SURS System).

Current (2015) dues are \$38.00 (\$33.00 for the State organization and \$5.00 for the Chapter).

All retirees are invited to social and information programs, which may be of retiree, College or general interest.

Membership forms can be printed through the websites of CDAA (www.codretirees.org) and SUAA (www.suaa.org).

**COLLEGE OF DUPAGE RETIREES ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS PAST TO PRESENT**

May 1, 2015

CDRA January 1992

Irma Pittroff – President Helen Swanson – Treasurer William (Bill) Doster – Secretary
Chuck Novak – Programs
Lee Stoldt, Pete Russo – Benefits Committee
Carolyn Rosenkrantz, Gwen Stoldt – Nominating Committee

CDAА March 1992

The College of DuPage Chapter of the State University Annuitants Association (CDAА) was chartered March 12, 1992. The officers elected were:

Robert (Bob) Harvey – President Chuck Nowak – Vice President
June Grahn – Secretary Jan Gilbert – Treasurer

Robert (Bob) Harvey was active as a liaison to SUAA though he was not an officer at any point.

CDRA September 1992 – 1993

Paul Fina– President
Pete Russo – Vice President
Earline Tetrick – Secretary
Helen Swenson - Treasurer

Merger of the Organizations

In September 1992, Paul Fina, President of the College of DuPage Retirees Association (CDRA) met with Dr. Harold McAninch to discuss the subject of merging the CDRA with the College of DuPage Annuitants Association (CDAА). The last unmerged meetings of the two organizations were held May 5, 1993.

1993 – 1994 The officers for the merged CDAА and CDRA for 1993-1994 were:

Basil Najjar – President Ruth Hallenstein - Secretary
Charles Nowak – Vice President (CDAА) and Lucile Friedli – Vice President (CDRA)
Jan Gilbert – Treasurer (CDAА) and Helen Swenson – Treasurer (CDRA)

The effective date of the merger was July 1, 1993. Even though there was a “merger” dues were separate and sent to the respective treasurers.

CDAА/CDRA Officers 1994 – 1995

President – Basils Najjar Mary Creighton – Secretary
James Love – Vice President (CDAА) Lucile Friedli – Vice President (CDRA)
Janet Gilbert – Treasurer (CDAА) Helen Swenson – Treasurer – (CDRA)

CDAА/CDRA Officers 1995 – 1996

Jim Love – President Unknown - Vice President
Jan Gilbert – Treasurer Dixie Miller – Secretary

CDAA Officers & Members of the Board of Directors

1996 – 1997

Jim Love – President
Robert (Bob) Geyer – Vice President (retired at the October 24, 1996 meeting)
Chuck Nowak – Vice President (replaced Robert (Bob) Geyer)
Earline Tetrick – Treasurer
Dixie Miller - Secretary

1997 – 1998

Don Dame – President
Earline Tetrick – Treasurer
Dixie Miller – Vice President
Joan Boeh - Secretary

1998 – 1999

Don Dame – President
Ernie Gibson – Treasurer
Dixie Miller – Vice Miller
Joan Boeh - Secretary

1999 – 2000

Dixie Miller – President
Ken Kolbet – Treasurer
Marvin Segal – Vice President
Irma Pittroff - Secretary

2000 – 2001

Dixie Miller – President
Ken Kolbet – Treasurer
Ernie Gibson – Vice President
Irma Pittroff - Secretary

2001 – 2002

Ernie Gibson – President
Ken Kolbet – Treasurer
Carolyn Gibson - Membership
Alan Bergeson – Vice President
Irma Pittroff - Secretary (through August 2002)
Karen Pedigo – Secretary

2002 – 2003

Ernie Gibson – President
Dan Lindsey – Treasurer
Ruth Pozesky – Social
Alan Bergeson – Vice President
Barbara Hall - Secretary
Steve Mansfield - Membership

2003 – 2004

Alan Bergeson – President
Ken Harris – Treasurer
Irma Pittroff – (Made a standing member of the Board)
Juanita Serafin – Legislation
Robert (Bob) Bollendorf – Vice President
Barbara Hall – Secretary
Ruth Pozesky – Social

2004 – 2008

Ron Lemme – President
Joe Rorke – Treasurer
Alan Bergeson – Immediate Past President
Larry Larson, Dixie Miller, Virginia Guerra - Communications/Newsletter
Sarah (Sally) Hadley - Communications/Newsletter
Ron Kapper – Vice President/CDAA-Action
Margaret (Peggy) Maas – Secretary
Steve Mansfield – Membership

Val Follmann – Vice President/Social/Nominating Lucia McGinn – Nominating Committee
Ruth Pozesky – Social Juanita Serafin – Legislation
Irma Pittroff – Member at Large/Nominating Committee
Peter Klassen – Web Master Alan Lanning – Email Communications

2008 – 2012

Steve Mansfield – President Brenda Alberico - Vice President/Membership
Ron Lemme – Immediate Past President/SUAA-Action
2009 – 13 Ron Nilsson – Secretary
2009 – 11 Jeanine Rasmussen – Treasurer
2011 – 14 Meri Phillips – Treasurer
2014 – 17 Joe Rorke – Treasurer
Kim Pack – Social programs Val Follmann – Social/Nominating
Sally Hadley, Ingrid Peternel – Communications/Newsletter
Lucia McGinn – Nominating Joe Barillari – SUAA Action
Bob Sobie – SUAA-Action/SURMAC Joe Rorke – SUAA Legal Fund
Peter Klassen – Web Master Alan Lanning – Email Communications

CDAА officers 2012 to 2016

2012 – 16 Sherwood Edwards – President Prudy Widlak – Vice President
2012 – 16 Steve Mansfield – Immediate Past President
2012 – 17 Joe Rorke – SUAA Legal Fund/Secretary/Treasurer
2011 – 14 Meri Phillips – Treasurer
2012 – 13 Ron Nilsson – Secretary
2014 – 17 Meri Phillips - Secretary
Jackie Reuland, Brenda Marcy – Membership Kim Pack – Social Programs
Ingrid Peternel – Communications Joe Barallari – Legislative Liaison
Russ Watson – At-Large Director Val Follmann, Lucia McGinn - Nominating
Peter Klassen – Web Master Alan Lanning – Email Communications

SURS and SUAA — What's the Difference?



SURS (State Universities Retirement System) **administers** benefits for the “public employee retirement system that provides retirement, survivor, disability, and death benefits for employees of Illinois state universities, community colleges, and certain other affiliated organizations and agencies.” www.surs.org



SUAA (State Universities Annuitants Association) **advocates** for protection of these benefits. www.suaa.org

SUAA is a 501(c)(4) organization created to advocate for the current employees, the retirees, their spouses and their survivors who will or who are receiving benefits from the State Universities Retirement System (SURS).

SUAA, founded in 1971 as a voluntary membership association, continues its vigilance to preserve and protect the pension system, the healthcare plans and all other benefits provided for the wellbeing of the 208,000 SURS participants and beneficiaries.

SUAA provides continuous tracking of pension and healthcare benefit issues, state funding, and other related concerns.

SUAA works with its membership to assure those legislators, executive officers, and other policymakers are knowledgeable about member issues.

SUAA also represents SURS beneficiaries who live out-of-state. **SUAA** is their *only* **VOICE** at the Capitol and other state agencies.

What does SUAA do?

- **SUAA** actively lobbies and collaborates with other organizations and coalitions focusing on sound public pension policy, higher education, and state revenue reforms.
- **SUAA** is the **only** advocacy **organization** that focuses **solely** on protecting benefits for all **SURS** members and beneficiaries. In addition, **SUAA** works closely with **SURS** to educate employees about benefit changes resulting from recent legislation. **SURS** does not endorse specific pension reform legislation. **SUAA** actively lobbies and collaborates with other organizations and coalitions focusing on sound public pension policy, higher education, and state revenue reforms.
- **SUAA** actively **advocates** to preserve and to protect the SURS pension system, the healthcare plans, and other benefits provided for community college and university employees and retirees, their spouses and survivors. **SUAA** is not a union.

- **SUAA, while advocacy oriented, is a** membership organization that requires funding from the individual stakeholders of the State Universities Retirement System.
- **SUAA, while advocacy oriented, is a** membership organization that requires funding from the individual stakeholders of the State Universities Retirement System.

What is SUAA at the forefront of?

- Filed lawsuit specific to SURS against the implementation of PA 98-0599.
- Filed lawsuit representing university retirees who signed the health insurance Irrevocable Election Public Act 91-0395.
- Intervened on the Kanerva Health Insurance Lawsuit to include PA 91-0395; stop health insurance payments; and object to unreasonable contingency fee.
- Effectively lead the charge to defeat Constitutional Amendment 49.
- Continuing to right the wrongs off PA 96-0889 (SB 1946) that was hastily passed as pension reform on March 24, 2010 (Tier II pension benefits).

Why should you join SUAA?

Joining **SUAA** is a way of taking responsibility for your own future, of doing something now to make sure that your retirement is there when you need it. If we leave it up to the State, they could reduce or eliminate your pension.

How do you become a member of these groups?

SURS—As a university or community college employee, you are automatically a member of **SURS**. The cost is 8% of your gross salary which is deducted from each and every paycheck.

SUAA—You must join **SUAA** to become a member. **SUAA** has local chapter affiliation on each state public university and community college campus in Illinois.

SUAA annual dues may be paid by check (payable to SUAA) or credit card at www.suaa.org.

Contact **SUAA** Executive Director Linda Brookhart at 217-523-4040 or email her at linda@suaa.org for more information.